

Vienna

Special Thanksgiving
1994
Pictorial Edition



o i c e s

DAM / POST OFFICE / SHOP

The village of Vienna has a number of new features to be thankful for this season and—as is so often the case—they're all connected. Because we have a new Post Office, we also have an old Post Office.

Because we have a new dam, we can be sure the old Post Office won't wash away. Because we have a safe old Post Office we also have a new Dam Shop

Herewith are some pictures of all three.

The Mill Pond Dam was first built in 1800—one of three in downtown Vienna—by Patrick Gilbreth (a.k.a. Galbraith), believed to have been an ancestor of Frank Gil-

CATASTROPHE! Summer 1992

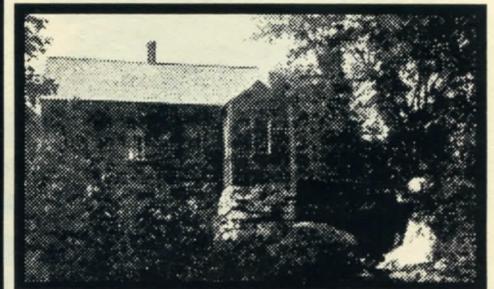


breth (of *Cheaper by the Dozen* fame) and John Kenneth Galbraith, the economist. Pictures of Patrick's grist mill, built right on top of the dam, show the same configuration of stones that may be seen today.

The most recent repairs, before the present effort, had been in the late 50's or early 60's. The reconstruction of '94 was accomplished without the town's having to generate any increase in tax revenue, thanks to a donation of \$5,000 from the Vienna Historical Society, an Emergency Management Administration grant of some \$16,000 and the donation of untold hours of supervisory and management time over a period of some 5-6 weeks by Road

THE DAM—Before They Turned The Water On—9/13/94

Commissioner Lenny Meader. In addition, the Fire Department donated and installed a new hydrant in the Mill Pond. The H.E. Callahan Construction Company provided the contracted work.



Old Grist Mill — c. 1800

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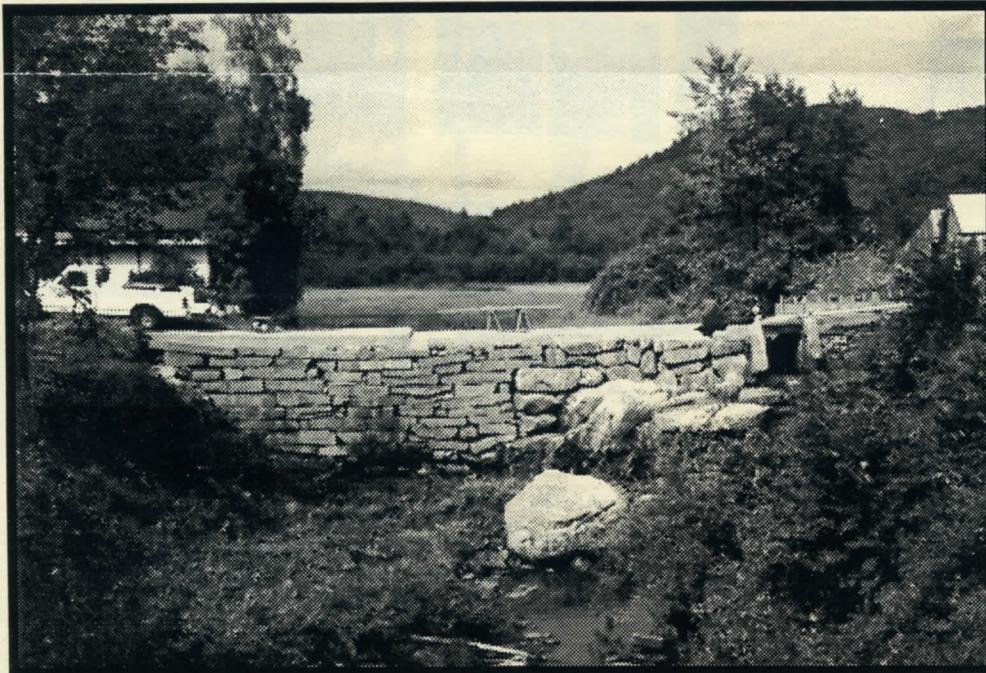
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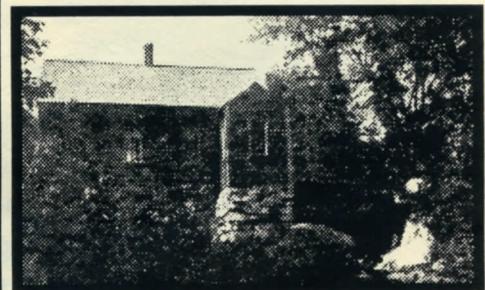
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THE DAM—Before They Turned The Water On—9/13/94



CATASTROPHE! Summer 1992



Old Grist Mill — c. 1800

THE DAM—After They Turned the Water On— 9/24/94



The old Vienna post office, a small building along Route 41, was closed September 17. For 56 years, residents went there to converse and collect mail by spinning combination lock dials on the 108 mailboxes just inside the door.

Now they enter a bright lobby and need keys to pick up the mail. Where the old post office was quaint and cozy, the new place is efficient and airy.

The new white colonial-style building with

black shutters sits on land owned by Paul Trask. In keeping with the town's architectural character, Trask got postal officials to modify the building's roof pitch to reflect 18th cen-



Jeanne Harris, Postmaster



Arlene Waite, Ass't Postmaster



tury lines. A cupola and weathervane complement the design and a horse hitch will be installed on the grounds later.

The Vienna Historical Society can take possession of the old brass mailbox doors from the former post office, but none can be sold. They previously were located in the Kents Hill post office. Paul Trask, president of the Society, be-

lieves the best place to display the doors is in the new post office, fitted into an unused lobby wall and covered with Plexiglass. The box doors feature an American eagle below the two combination locks that open by turning to the proper letters.

(From the *Kennebec Journal*, 9/28/94, by Dan McGillvray)



Historic photos of Vienna, provided by Paul Trask for the Post Office's open house on September 29th.

Postmaster Harris is happy that the large windows in the new post office will give her a good view of the town's visiting moose, which was recently sighted. The window by Harris' desk faces the Mill Pond.

Harris had worked three years in the old post office that—among other features—had neither plumbing nor access for people with physical disabilities. The old post office is about four times the size of the old one; it has 208 boxes.

In keeping with Vienna's status as an environmentally correct town, the old post office was recycled almost before it was emptied.



Guests enjoying the sumptuous refreshment table at Post Office open house. From left to right: Mike Gallant (Readfield Postmaster), Arlene Waite, David and Edna Ripley.

As announced in the fall issue of *Vienna Voices*, Debbie Byrnes and Libby Harville (from left to right in the adjoining picture) planned a consignment shop in that prime commercial location on Route 41, appropriately called "The Dam Shop."



Gloria Kelley and Doris Brown admire the wide selection of wares displayed by Debbie Byrnes.



Home-made goodies are available to visitors as well as shop residents.



Vienna Voices

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